Dear Jon,

2/22/77

By a carbon of this letter and a copy of yours of 2/17 in which you impose limitations, Jim Lesar will know that he may make no public use of the two Gottlieb items without permission. When we spoke you agreed that Jim could know their content. I think he should know the exact langauge because he is still Ray s lawyer and what Lane attributes to Ray I believe it is obvious Ray has no way of knowing. Thus words are put into the mouth of Jim's client.

Despite the need for brevity you might want to impress upon your stringer that it is traditional to answer the question who as in who sez. About:

He says he signed his name in the rooming house's registration book. The book has since disappeared. Ray told Mark Lane there must be something very serious and inportant in the book to account for its disappearance. Is it possible the registration book also contains the names of others involved in the plot?"

I can answer the childish question for you both logically and factually. Logically crooks and other criminals do not work this way. Factually I have all the registrations and interviews with each person there at that time, all registered.

Gottlieb appears to be one of those turned on by bullshit. As a repoeter it should have been obvious to him that Ray had no way of knowing whether or not the registration book had disappeared. If Lane told him Lane lied. Besides, Lane also had no way of knowing, were it true.

When Gottlieb tells you the Lorraine registrations have disappeared tell him to go into the corner, any one but Lane's. I have it, too.

Your stringer simply is an uncritical Lane partisan. In the other item it is simply false to say that "The suit [not filed, by the way] results from CIA documents recently released to Lane..." Lane may have said this but by now anyone who does not know that when he is truthful it is accidental ought not be writing news.

The initial request is mine. I have not been able to file the suit. This request is now six years old and they are still stonewalling me on it. These same records were also given to me, as they were to Lane when he paid for them. He had no more to do with getting them out than you did. They were released in Bud Fensterwald's suit. I know this privately. I know from the CIA that they were released to a litigant. For all his big talk and all his money and all his support and his law degree he has filed two suits only, one for the FBI's files on him - NOT the CIA's - and one for Warren Commission records. If I am correct in my recollection of his prior claims, he sued to get what I and others had for years, what was never secret. I wrote about it at least six years ago, the Jack Ruby "informer" stuff he has exaggerated beyind what even for him could be called reason.

But I'd love to have tapes of those Lane appearances! If you can get them. Some of these poor deceived kids really go around taping that verbal garbage.

The Freed and Lane titles are not identical. Lane's is Codename Zorro. Freed's is Operation Zorro. I'm anxious to see all those excerpts. The first two of typical rhetoric, totally unfactual.

I do get the WxPost. Usually Jim gets the NYTimes, yes. I don8t but if there is something in it I should know from him or from another firend there is a good chance I'll get it. (I wish you could copy the LATimes more legibly. I never get anything from it.) I have had to let all other subscri tions lapse.

I know of no reason to connect any Trachman with the JFK assassination, even if the unspecified Italian press is said to by AIB. I have heard of a confession in the Marcos case and of some dispute about it.

Why don't you ask DJ for a copy of its King/Ray "task force" report and compare what you read with what Bell told Ostrow? That is a possible story the straight press might take from you. What Bell said is out on his orders is not out. Thanks much,